

## Winter Maintenance of Regional Roads

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### Policy Statement

The Winter Maintenance of Regional Roads policy specifies the winter maintenance standards to which the Regional Municipality of York (the Region) will comply with for Regional roads.

### Application

This policy applies to all public highways, as defined by the *Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990*, over which the Region has jurisdiction, including all roads which may be assumed by the Region.

### Purpose

On August 25, 1994, the Council of the Regional Municipality of York (Regional Council) adopted the standard of bare pavement for winter road maintenance. Subsequently, the *Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways, Ontario Regulation 239/02 (MMS)* was promulgated under the *Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25* and came into force on November 1, 2002. The MMS has been amended a number of times since coming into force, most recently on May 3, 2018. This policy replaces the previous Winter Maintenance of Regional Roads (2005) policy.

### Definitions

**Bicycle Lane:** A portion of a roadway that has been designated by pavement markings or signage for the preferential or exclusive use of cyclists

**High-Volume Roads:** Regional roads with minimum average daily traffic of 20,000 vehicles per day

**Practicable:** Capable of being put into practice or of being done or accomplished

**Regional Road:** A public highway, as defined by the *Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990*, that is under the jurisdiction of the Region

**Significant Weather Event for Regional Roads:** A significant weather event is defined as an approaching or occurring weather hazard with the potential to pose a significant danger to users of Regional roads

**Snow Accumulation:** The natural accumulation of any of the following that, alone or together, covers more than half a lane width of a roadway:

- Newly-fallen snow
- Wind-blown snow
- Slush

**Substantial Probability:** A significant likelihood considerably in excess of 51 percent, as determined by a designate of the Director of Roads and Traffic Operations

**Weather Hazard:** The weather hazards determined by Environment Canada as meeting the criteria for the issuance of an alert under its Public Weather Alerting Program

**Winter:** Annually, from October 1 to April 30

**Winter Event:** A weather condition affecting roads such as snowfall, blizzard, snow or ice storm, extreme cold, wind-blown snow, sleet, freezing rain, frost, black ice, etc. to which a winter event response is required

## Description

### 1.0 General Conditions

- 1.1 The Region conducts winter road maintenance in compliance with the MMS, as amended, made under the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- 1.2 The Region will deploy resources as soon as is practicable to address snow accumulation, ice formation on roadways and icy roadways.

### 2.0 High Volume Regional Roads

In addition to compliance with the MMS, as amended, made under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the Region has adopted standards for the winter maintenance of high volume roads through the implementation of an *Anti-Icing Program*.

- 2.1 Anti-Icing Program

- 2.1.1 Regional roads with minimum average daily traffic of 20,000 vehicles per day are subject to the following additional anti-icing practices, as weather conditions permit.
- 2.1.2 The Region will apply a salt brine solution to the pavement on high volume roadways, prior to the commencement of snow accumulation, where there is a substantial probability of ice forming on Regional roadways, as a result of anticipated snow accumulation.
- 2.1.3 If the MMS requires the application of salt brine or another anti-icing technique in the future, the Region will comply with the MMS, where conflicts exist between the Region's policy and the MMS or any future amendments to the MMS.

### **3.0 Significant Weather Events for Regional Roads**

- 3.1 As per Section 16.9 of the MMS, the Region may declare a Significant Weather Event for Regional roads due to a winter weather hazard determined by Environment Canada as meeting the criteria for the issuance of an alert under its Public Weather Alerting Program and with the potential to pose a significant danger to users of Regional roads.
- 3.2 The purpose of the declaration of a Significant Weather Event for Regional roads is to:
  - Advise the public of the potential associated danger
  - Deem all Regional roadways in an interim legal state of repair with respect to snow accumulation and/or ice conditions for the duration of the declaration and for the additional subsequent response time allowed under the MMS
- 3.3 Roads and Traffic Operations staff may declare a Significant Weather Event for Regional Roads, due to weather hazards, at any point during the year.
- 3.4 Factors that Roads and Traffic Operations staff shall consider in declaring a Significant Weather Event for Regional Roads include:
  - The issuance of an Environment Canada Public Weather Alert
  - Confirmation through local forecasting and observations that the Weather Hazard which is the subject of the Environment Canada Alert is actually imminent or occurring in the Region
- 3.5 The Region will communicate the declaration of a Significant Weather Event for Regional Roads to the public through the appropriate medium in accordance with methods outlined in the MMS.
- 3.6 The Region may also communicate the declaration of a Significant Weather Event for Regional Roads directly to its local municipalities and surrounding regions but assumes no role or liability for the actions or inactions of any of these agencies in making their own declarations or maintenance decisions.

3.7 If the Region declares a Significant Weather Event for Regional Roads and/or bicycle lanes, the standard for addressing snow and/or ice accumulation on Regional roadways until the declaration of the end of the significant weather event is to:

- Monitor the weather in accordance with the MMS; and,
- If deemed practicable by Roads and Traffic Operations staff, to deploy resources to address snow and/or ice accumulation on Regional roadways, starting from the time that Roads and Traffic Operations staff deem appropriate to do so

3.9 All Regional roadways and bicycle lanes within the Region are deemed to be in a state of repair with respect to snow and/or ice accumulation until the time allowed under the MMS for each class of road expires after Roads and Traffic Operations staff has declared the end of the Significant Weather Event for Regional Roads.

3.10 Following the end of the weather hazard and/or winter event for which a Significant Weather Event for Regional Roads is declared, the Region shall:

- Declare the end of the significant weather event when Roads and Traffic Operations staff deem appropriate to do so
- Address snow and/or ice accumulation on Regional roadways and bicycle lanes in accordance with the MMS

## Responsibilities

### Transportation Services Department

- The Transportation Services Department will conduct winter maintenance in compliance with the MMS, as amended, and the Anti-Icing Program described above

## Reference

### Legislative and other authorities

- *The Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c.25. Ontario Regulation 239/02, Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Roadways, as amended
- Clause 21, Report 14 of the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee adopted by Regional Council on August 25, 1994
- Clause 14, Report 7 of the Transportation and Works Committee adopted by Regional Council on June 12, 2002
- Clause 6, Report 10 of the Transportation and Works Committee adopted by Regional Council on October 21, 2004

- Clause 2, Report 6 of the Transportation Services Committee adopted by Regional Council June 28, 2012

## Contact

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## Approval

Council Date: [REDACTED]	Committee Date: [REDACTED]
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